
Southeast Texas (SETX)
and
Southwest Louisiana (SWLA)
Area Contingency Plan

Public Health and Safety:
Water Sampling Protocols

Annex 5b
July 2021

Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana Area Contingency Plan

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Section Number	Change Date	Name
1	Renamed Appendix 18 to Annex 5b and removed Reference to Vol 2	All	30 July 2021	Todd Peterson, CGD 8
2	Updated link to the CTCACP, Annex 5b	Section 1000	01 Jun 2022	A.J. Tyndale, CGD 8
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1000 Public Health and Safety: Water Sampling Protocols Introduction

Through the collection and analysis of water samples, responders can uncover valuable data needed to inform decisions related to response tactic deployment, determining cleanup endpoints, waterway closures, recreational and consumption advisories, and fisheries management. During a response, water sampling may be necessary to answer a variety of questions. For example:

- What is the source of the spill?
- Is oil/hazardous substance detected in the surface water samples?
- Is the water body of acceptable quality for recreation, fish consumption, irrigation, or a designated beneficial use?
- Is oil/hazardous substance migrating?
- Is water quality improving or worsening?
- Is sediment and tissue sampling required?

This document contains guidance and plan templates to standardize the process to collect, analyze, and disseminate sampling results that can support decision-making during a response. Sampling guidance throughout the plan only covers surface water. All sampling fieldwork is to be conducted in accordance with the site safety plan developed for the response.

Note: The Central Texas Coastal Area Committee developed this document. The formatting of the Water Sampling Plan is styled after a previously published version; reformatting will occur during future updates.

The following is a link to the [Public Health and Safety: Water Sampling Protocols, Annex 5b](#).